

After "the Army and the Navy," the Chairman proposed the "Periodical Press," and dwelt on the important part it played in forming society.

The Chairman when he reached the toast of the evening, said he was sure it would be responded to in the manner that it deserved. It was "Prosperity to the Builders' Benevolent Institution." Every one must admit that the Builders' Benevolent Institution was an institution which was much wanted, and which had been well conceived. He thought there were very few who would dispute the fact that the building trade in all its ramifications was the most, or at least one of the most important interests of this country. To carry out their trade, large and expensive establishments were necessary, and great outlay was required. He believed there was no trade in existence which gave so large an amount of employment to the labouring classes, nor was there any trade so beset with vicissitudes, as the building trade generally. There was no trade which had to sustain losses of a more extensive and ruinous character than the building trade; and taking the numbers they employed, and all other circumstances into consideration, he (the Chairman) thought they were justly entitled to consider themselves as one of the most important bodies in the empire. Let them look around that great metropolis, and he was bound to express a belief that there were few of the great modern public works in existence that some of them present had not had a hand in. Whether it was the magnificent structure now in course of erection, under Mr. Barry, by the gentleman who sat on his right hand, or other public establishments, they were all engaged in that which reflected the highest honour and credit to the country to which they belonged. Then, with all the power and influence of the building trades of the metropolis, was it to be wondered at that they should found an institution which should in some measure mitigate the sorrows, and soothe the afflictions, of those of their brethren who, from various circumstances, may have fallen into decay. It was true their institution was now in its infancy. It owed its origin to gentlemen who were then present, and to whom he (the Chairman) thought the building trade owed a deep debt of gratitude, he meant Mr. Thomas Cosens, and to some gentlemen whom they all very well knew, of the name of Bird. To those gentlemen chiefly were they indebted for their meeting of that day. Their institution had gone on flourishing in a most satisfactory manner, and he (the Chairman) hoped and looked forward to the day when it should become one of the most important institutions which this country could boast of. Had he the eloquence of the talented nobleman who had done them the honour to preside over their festival of the preceding year—had he the powerful eloquence of the Earl of Carlisle—he should expatiate at much greater length on the merits of such an institution as theirs; but as he was not possessed of the ability of that noble lord, he would content himself by submitting to them the toast:—"Prosperity to the Builders' Benevolent Institution."

To the toast, "The patrons and vice-presidents of the Institution," Mr. Piper ably returned thanks. He expressed his conviction that a more deserving institution, or one more calculated to excite sympathy and goodwill amongst the members of the trade for their less fortunate brethren could scarcely be contemplated; and he made a feeling reference to Mr. Biers, to whom, though he had lately fallen into trouble, the institution owed so much.

Mr. Grissel said the next toast would require but very few words from him to recommend it. It was the health of a gentleman who was not only justly the head of his profession, but who had rendered most eminent services to that institution, both as its President and Chairman of that day. It augured well for any institution when they could enlist the sympathies of such a gentleman as their respected Chairman in its favour, and he felt assured that, under such auspices, it could not fail to flourish.

The Chairman observed that he felt deeply grateful for the honour which had just been conferred upon him, although he hardly thought he was entitled to the rank which had

been assigned to him in his profession by his friend Mr. Grissel;—at all events, when his friend was present. He could assure them that he felt it to be a great honour to have been selected as the president of the Builders' Benevolent Institution, and he thought that it would be well that there should be an annual change in the persons appointed to fill that honourable office, because he conceived it would be the means of bringing various influences to bear, and induce a greater number of persons to interest themselves in its objects. He concluded by proposing "The Health of their respected Treasurer." They all knew the efforts which their treasurer had made in behalf of the institution, and he was sure they appreciated them.

Mr. G. Bird, in responding, said he had to congratulate his friends around him on the rapid advance which the institution had made during the past year. Their institution was only commenced in 1847, and they had now 400 annual subscribers, 1,600*l.* stock, and 100*l.* out at interest. They had already elected four male pensioners, and one poor female pensioner. The directors contemplated the election of five more pensioners in October next; and if the gentlemen at the tables would only fill up their subscription lists with a liberal hand, there was no doubt but that desirable object would be effected. Their worthy chairman had told them that the building trade was a most important community. He believed it was, and he also believed that the builders had the power, if they had the will, of making their institution one of the largest and most important charities in the world.

The Chairman then proposed, "The Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors," coupled with the name of Mr. Godwin.

Mr. Godwin returned thanks.

The health of "Mr. Thomas Cosens and the Members of the Committee," "The Stewards of the day" (acknowledged by Mr. Kendall), and other toasts, were then disposed of, and the proceedings terminated.*

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The laying of the foundation stone of St. Edmund's Church, Northampton, Mr. C. Vickers, architect, was postponed till 17th ult., when the ceremony was performed by the archdeacon of the diocese in presence of a large assembly. The church, we perceive, is to be cruciform, in the Early English style, with tower at the cross, and broach spire. There is a five-light window at the east end.—The designs for All Saints Church, at Hockerville, have been sent in, and the plan of Mr. G. E. Pritchett, of Stortford, has been selected by the Bishop of London. The building will shortly be commenced. It will be Early English in style, with accommodation for 500, without galleries. The estimated cost of erection is 4,000*l.*—The curate officiating at Norton Church, in palliating the neglect of providing a lightning conductor previous to the late accident, points attention, in the *Leicester Journal*, to the fact that this is a neglect common to "almost every country parish, many in towns, and even not a few metropolitan ones. I believe," he adds, "that of the seven or eight spire churches nearest to Norton, only one, that of Stoughton, possesses a conductor, and even this was put up, through the influence of Mr. Leigh Keck, only about two years ago. I have no means of ascertaining what is the case in other parts, but I find among the instances quoted in a pamphlet by Sir W. Snow Harris, of churches injured by lightning owing to the want of conductors, the churches of St. Michael and St. Martin, in Liverpool, both struck in 1841; and in London, that of Spitalfields, struck in the same year; St. Clement's, in the Strand; and above all, the most central church in the whole metropolis, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the spire of which was struck and very much injured in 1842." These, however, are but a very few of the numerous instances of damage done to churches from want of light-

ning conductors since the dates specified.—Nearly 450*l.* have been subscribed by fifty-four persons towards the enlargement of South Hants Infirmary. Two wings for forty-eight patients, at a cost of 2,000*l.*, are contemplated, or one at least to begin with.

The Committee of Visitors relative to the proposed new County Lunatic Asylum for Hampshire, recommended that the tender for the erection of the asylum made by Mr. W. Jackson, of Parliament-street, London (amount 33,786*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, and surerest), should be accepted, and this the court have agreed to. The new asylum will accommodate about 400 patients, and is to be erected from the designs of Mr. J. Harris, of Hanwell. The principal front will be about 500 feet long, and, except a small clock tower in the centre, will be only two stories high. Every part, except the principal entrance, will be of the plainest description possible. The total cost will be nearly 50,000*l.*—which includes site and land adjoining, 5,550*l.*, less timber, 1,500*l.*; extras to building, 3,000*l.*, and furnishing, 10*l.* to 12*l.* a head. "We should have given the names and amounts tendered by unsuccessful contractors," says our authority for these particulars, the *Hampshire Independent*, "but that the committee adopted the very unusual, and to our minds, reprehensible course, of suppressing all information on the matter."—Cowbridge Church, says *Felix Farley*, is undergoing an entire renovation and repair, under the superintendence of the diocesan architect. The donations now amount to nearly 1,000*l.*—A committee has been appointed at Bath to carry out some public improvements, and especially to replace the iron railing in front of the Royal Crescent by a light stone balustrade; to construct a wide avenue from the park to the centre of the Crescent, divided into terraces by flights of steps, and on either side to erect a fountain, throwing jets of water from 30 to 40 feet in height. Another portion of the design is, to place fountains in Queen-square, the Circus, and Laura-place; the waste water to be conveyed to Kingmead-square, to form another fountain. The Infant School, opened in Macdonald-street, Birmingham, accommodates 150 children, and cost upwards of 1,000*l.*, ground and fittings inclusive.—The foundation-stone of a new Exchange at Wolverhampton, was laid on Wednesday week before last.—The new cemetery at Wolverhampton was consecrated on Monday week, except a third of its twenty acres set apart for dissenting bodies. Two chapels, erected under the superintendence of Mr. E. Adams, of London, architect, are attached, and are in the Early English style: each chapel measures 40 feet by 16 feet. The grounds are undulated, and command extensive views. A long tier of catacombs occupies an elevated position south of the chapels.—The contract for the erection of the baths and washhouses in Saul-street, Preston, has been let. The estimated cost of the building is about 6,000*l.*, to which will be added about 1,000*l.* for engineering fittings. It is intended to lay the foundation-stone in a few weeks.—On Monday week the large chimney at Messrs. Banks and Co.'s iron foundry, Chorley, fell to the ground, striking the centre of the foundry building, and dashing the part on which it fell to the ground, besides injuring the engine and boiler. A well had been sunk near the base of the chimney.—On the 24th ult., a portion of a mill at Oldham fell. The building had been giving way for some time. The workmen had just escaped before the gable and two bays of the mill, five stories high, with all the machinery on the upper floors, came down with a crash. The damage is estimated at 1,000*l.*—A colossal statue of Mr. J. B. Leyland, in bronze, with a massive pedestal, is to be erected at Halifax.—Arrangements, says the *Reformer's Gazette*, have been completed for enlarging the prison at Paisley: estimated expense from 9,000*l.* to 10,000*l.* The contractors for the mason-work are Messrs. Henderson and Co., of Glasgow.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE.—A "Sketcher" directs attention to the war in which the brick-work of the Tudor portion of Hampton Court is being scraped without occasion, whereby, as he says, its pleasant aspect is being destroyed.

* Amongst the subscriptions announced we noted.—Mr. W. Cubitt, 21*l.*; Mr. W. Cubitt, 2*l.* 5*s.*; and Mr. E. B. Cubitt, 2*l.* 5*s.*; well done, ladies: Mr. Grissel, 10*l.*; Mr. Piper, 10*l.*; Mr. Biddle, 5*s.*; Mr. Grissell, 10*l.*; Mr. Bennett, 5*s.*; Mr. G. Bird, 100*l.*; Mr. Douglas Pennant, 100*l.*; Messrs. Lee and Son, 5*s.*; Mr. Bushell, 5*s.*; Mr. Harding, North end, 5*s.*; &c. About 600*l.* in whole.